

COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve C. Davis

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, was held on **Monday December 14, 2009**, in the Assembly Room of the Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Steve C. Davis, Council District No. 8; Committee Member Phillip Farley, Council District No. 1; Committee Member Timothy J. Callanan, Council District No. 2; Committee Member Robert O. Call, Jr., Council District No. 3; Committee Member Cathy S. Davis, Council District No. 4; Committee Member Dennis L. Fish, Council District No. 5; Committee Member Jack H. Schurknight, Council District No. 6; Committee Member Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., Council District No. 7; County Supervisor Daniel W. Davis, ex officio; Ms. Nicole Scott Ewing, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, the electronic and print media were duly notified.

Chairman S. Davis welcomed Mrs. Page Austell and her government class from Berkeley High School. Chairman S. Davis stated to the class, "You will have a first hand opportunity tonight to witness and observe your local government in full operation and I commend Mrs. Austell for giving y'all this opportunity to come out tonight. I am a student of political science and so I feel a connection with y'all and I hope that y'all have a wonderful time with us tonight."

Chairman S. Davis called the meeting to order. Committee Member Pinckney gave the Invocation and Committee Member C. Davis led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Chairman S. Davis asked for the approval of minutes from the meetings of the Committee on Justice and Public Safety held on October 12, 2009 and October 26, 2009.

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Callanan to **approve** the minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

A. Mr. Tom Smith, Berkeley County Emergency Preparedness Director, and Mr. Alec Brebner, Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments, Re: Berkeley County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mr. Smith greeted County Council and stated, "Mr. Brebner could not make the meeting this evening, so a representative from the Berkeley County Council of Governments, Ms. Vonie Gilreath will do the presentation. She is accompanied with Ms. Ileana la Torres from the Council of Governments."

Ms. Gilreath stated, "I worked on the initial grant that was purposed to EMD, so I am familiar with this project. I want to do an overview as part of a public meeting for the Berkeley Charleston Hazard Mitigation Plan. The purpose of the Hazard Mitigation Plan was to provide a method for mitigation planning. When we are talking mitigation planning, we are talking about prevention planning. As part of this process, we were concerned with how to get the public aware of preventative measures. We are providing a decision tool for management and we want to ensure that there is inter-jurisdictional coordination, not just with your municipalities, with these two counties, but also with the municipalities in Charleston County and the other surrounding areas. We certainly had our share of hazards over the last 20 years. Looking at pictures of Hurricane Hugo, for those who were here during that period of time, and also events that occurred as an example, on Wadmallaw Island. An overview of the hazard plan starts with the original plan was done in 2003 and I was at the COG at the time that was done. It took about a year and a half to do the original plan. About a year and a half ago in 2007, we applied for a grant from EMD to do the update. We weren't awarded the grant in the 2007 cycle, but we went ahead and submitted it again last December and we were funded as of July, this year, to complete the update. The main purpose of the plan is to identify the potential hazards, what could happen. What can we do to prevent things from happening. And then to come up with and update the active plan to ensure the county's eligibility for FEMA funds. And again, that is the most important thing I want you to remember about this plan tonight and that is this is linked to your FEMA funding. This plan has to be in place for you to get that funding. There was two roles here. The role of BCDCOG and also the role of the local governments. The COG coordinated the local governments and is facilitating the adoption by these local municipalities. It is the role of the local governments to actually carry out the recommendations in the plan."

Ms. Gilreath continued, "Just a quick look at the work flow. First thing we had to do is to organize all the resources and review the original plan, assess the risk, develop or rather, update the plan and then talk about the implementation. The time line. As I mentioned, the funding was actually allocated in July and the first draft of the plan had to be turned in by the end of September. So, it was a pretty aggressive time line. The public meetings were held. A couple of public meetings were held. There was one held August 24th and December 4th. Here tonight, December 14th and then we will be at Dorchester County on January 4th. The State deadline, as I said, was in September but the Federal deadline, we've turned in the draft to the State. They are going to review the mitigation plan and come back with some recommendations for some changes, but they wanted to get it done early to give them plenty of time to coordinate with the other plans in the state so that they can have it ready to go to FEMA by February 10th of 2010. Some of the updates, the risk assessments that were done as part of this process. We had to look at what some of the new hazards were since the plan had been done in 2003, document those changes and include an inventory of those existing and proposed buildings since 2003. The next slide is the hurricane tracks or potential hurricane tracks. Ileana did a wonderful job of the mapping. That is the vulnerable zones by hazards. Again, by the natural hazard zones. Medical facilities and we are talking about critical facilities. We are talking about where the utility companies are located and bridges, electrical and natural gas structures. Some of the strategies that the local governments' came up with, I'm sorry, the local mitigation goals were to reaffirm and update the database. We had to go back and we coordinated with Berkeley County to get

any updated GIS information. Some of the strategies, moving a little bit forward, some of the strategies that they talked about for mitigation were to really assess the green space conservation. I know that you are undergoing your Comprehensive Plan right now, and that is certainly a component of that. Preserving that green space is a hazard mitigation. Low impact development and also looking at burying power lines. These are a couple of the plans that have been done in our region. The Comprehensive GreenBelt Plan which was done by Charleston County. The Beaufort Open Land Trust has done a conservation plan. The Cane Bay Low Impact Development Project. This is just a website that shows the public private partnerships to bury power lines on roads and in Greenville. I live in an area of Charleston where we certainly have been talking about putting those wires underground. There is a program through SCE&G. Very quickly, these are some of the mitigation actions of the City of Goose Creek. The development of a Storm Water Management Plan, maintaining and updating the fire codes and those kinds of policies. Looking at the different resources in the area that were part of this plan, put together by this team, creating resilient communities as a partnership in which they will be doing a blueprint for the region. There is the CARRI Group which is a partnership with the COG and the CARRI Institute of the College of Charleston. I do have the website up there if people want to download that and it will be available to staff. We just recently updated our website, bcdcog.com. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Mr. Simpson, myself or Ileana or call the COG to answer questions for you. Do I have any questions from Council?"

Committee Member Callanan stated "Does the demolition debris removal plan, would it be part of this or is this more of a, one of the concerns that we have is if a huge storm comes in here is how we are going to get the debris out? How are we going to get to the locations that it needs to get to?"

Ms. Gilreath responded "That would be a preparation and mitigation strategy as to how you are going to do that and how quickly you are going to do that. Those of us who went through Hugo very distinctly remember that debris piling up and being left on the sides of the roads."

Chairman S. Davis stated "We thank you for the information that has been provided."

B. Ms. Roxanne Willey, Deputy Director, Berkeley County 911, Re: Approval to apply for the South Carolina 2010 JAG Grant (Justice Assistance Grant) Program to obtain funding for a FCC narrowband mandatory upgrade for all licensees to implement narrow band capable equipment.

Ms. Willey greeted the Committee and stated, "I am here to request approval to apply for a grant, one of the JAG grants. I want to ask for funding to pretty much replace and upgrade our entire radio system in the Center. Just in the 911 Dispatch Center. It will make everything, make us compliant with narrow banding, which is FCC mandated by 2011. It will ensure that we are interoperable with other agencies, which is very important these days. I put in an approximate amount on there because we are still waiting on a couple of areas that we could use some improvement on. I put in an approximate of \$650,000. This grant will be 95% federally

funded and we have to do a 5% match on it, which will be about \$30 – 40,000 for us and it will come out of the 911 addressing funding, which it's there."

Committee Member Callanan stated, "Just for informational purposes, what is narrow band?"

Ms. Willey responded, "Narrow banding is right now the frequencies are kinda wide, wide band. There are so many frequencies on one band that they become so congested, so everybody has to go narrow band now. It's FCC mandated across everybody has to go to more of a narrow band where there is less frequencies on each band, so there is less congestion and it ensures more safety that you are going to get out on the radio and transmit."

Committee Member Callanan stated, "Everyone tends to speak a lot, especially in Charleston County, about consolidation. Sometime in the future there was some sort of regional consolidation, would this equipment be compliant with what everyone else would have?"

Ms. Willey responded, "If we go with what we are looking at, which is Motorola, which is what we kinda have, the life expectancy they are saying if we get this new system is to like 2027. Granted some of the equipment, some of the hardware type stuff might go out before then because everything is on the computer. But it is hopefully enable a lot of IP address questions that people could come up where everything is turning into a lot of IP access, so it is going to enable quite a bit."

Committee Member Pinckney stated, "In regards to narrow band and it being mandated, is there any conjunction with broadband here or does one bank off the other? Is there any connection at all?"

Ms. Willey responded, "Pretty much what a lot of the equipment is going to with digital. It has to be digital interface. It is all works on the narrow band frequencies, from what I understand to what everything is moving into now with technology. Everybody has to be narrow band compliant. I can get you some more detailed information on that if you would like me too."

Committee Member Pinckney stated, "It is my understanding that broadband that the FCC has mandated that it be implemented sometime early on next year."

Ms. Willey stated, "By 2011."

Committee Member Pinckney stated, "I was wondering if there is any connection in between the narrow band and the broad band?"

Ms. Willey responded, "Size is pretty much it. Like I said, as people are steady going, as the different agencies going to the narrow banding, it's already causing interference for people that have not gone to that yet because of the amount of traffic on each band width. It's already causing some interference. So they are pushing people to get it going as quickly as possible because there won't be any space left anymore. They won't renew our licenses either if we don't

go narrow band. The FCC will not renew any licenses or give any out if everybody is not narrow band.”

Committee Member Fish stated, “I’ve got two questions. No. 1, you talk about the \$35 – 40,000 being budgeted out of 911. Are you anticipating that you will have the grant and this money will be spent prior in this budget year?”

Ms. Willey responded, “It will be, the grant is due January 15th. They just put these out for 2010. The deadline to apply is January 15th. The grants will be awarded late May to early June and the money will be distributed on July 1st.”

Committee Member Fish stated, “The 2nd question I’m not sure I heard the answer to Mr. Callanan. If down the road, we take a look at moving all of them together under one system, is this system compatible with Charleston and the other centers?”

Ms. Willey responded, “From what I understand, it will be. It will have the ability to inter opt with all types of radio capacities like 800 radios and P25’s and 700 MHz and VHF and UHF’s. It will have the capabilities to do all of that.”

Chairman S. Davis stated, “Thank you Ms. Willey. I think you have done pretty well. I looked through the information and you did have some information sources which I think was helpful. I don’t know what 25 kHz stands for, but that is the wide band and then anything under 12.5 kHz is your narrow band. The information kinda outlined where you are trying to get to.”

It was moved by Committee Member Schurlknight and seconded by Committee Member Farley to **approve** the application for the **South Carolina 2010 JAG Grant (Justice Assistance Grant) Program**. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

It was moved by Committee Member Farley and seconded by Committee Member Schurlknight to **adjourn** the Committee on Justice and Public Safety meeting. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6:22 pm.

January 11, 2010
Date Approved

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(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8

Members: Mr. Phillip Farley, District No. 1
Mr. Timothy J. Callanan, District No. 2
Mr. Robert O. Call, Jr., District No. 3
Mrs. Cathy S. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Dennis Fish, District No. 5
Mr. Jack H. Schurlknight, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Daniel W. Davis, Supervisor, ex officio

A **meeting** of the **COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on **Monday December 14, 2009**, at **6:00 p.m.** in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Administration Building, 1003 Highway 52, Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

AGENDA

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 12, 2009

October 26, 2009

A. Mr. Tom Smith, Berkeley County Emergency Preparedness Director, and Mr. Alec Brebner, Berkeley Charleston Dorchester Council of Governments, Re: Berkeley County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

B. Ms. Roxanne Willey, Deputy Director, Berkeley County 911, Re: Approval to apply for the South Carolina 2010 JAG Grant (Justice Assistance Grant) Program to obtain funding for a FCC narrowband mandatory upgrade for all licensees to implement narrow band capable equipment.

December 9, 2009

S/Barbara B. Austin, CCC

Clerk of County Council